

# Star golfer says year helped her grow

**2016 THE YEAR THAT WAS...**

## 19-year-old packs career's worth of wins in one season

Taiwan was Brooke Henderson's favourite destination on the LPGA Tour this year. Playing in the Olympics, winning \$1.7 million US in prize money and capturing her first major were pretty cool, too.

The 19-year-old from Smiths Falls, Ont., packed more into one season than some golfers experience over an entire career.

Back home this month for a well-deserved holiday break, Henderson told The Canadian Press she feels more mature as she reaches the end of her

remarkable year.

"This year especially gave me a lot of experiences that added a lot of value to who I am as a person, and what I am on the LPGA Tour," she said in a recent interview.

Henderson was the LPGA's Ironwoman in 2016, playing a tour-high 31 events, peaking at No. 2 on the world rankings before finishing eighth. Add to that the Rio Olympics and sponsor commitments and the young Canadian didn't have much time for herself on her first full season on the women's pro circuit. But she believes the gruelling schedule has prepared her for the future.

Henderson won two titles in 2016, including the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, her first career major. She added 15 top-10 finishes and was just two shots out of the bronze medal position at the Olympics.

While many marvel at the



Brooke Henderson plants a kiss on her championship trophy after winning the Women's PGA Championship golf tournament.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

teen's poise and maturity, Henderson's inexperience did come to the forefront on occasion. In Rio, she left the golf course in tears after shooting 4-over on

the final six holes of the third round, a collapse that included a four-putt on the 16th hole.

"Golf is a very tough game and like anything in life there

is going to be disappointments where you wish you had played a little bit better or made smarter decisions, but that's just where you have to learn from it and move on," said Henderson.

Henderson will remain involved with Golf Canada's program next year, although she said she would work with Canadian head coach Tristan Mulhally a "little bit" as her father Dave is her "number one guy."

"I definitely would like to get stronger and hit the ball a little further and work on my consistency overall," she said of her off-season plans. "I think that's the big one. And short game. That's always been something I've worked on especially the last few years." She will also continue to have her older sister Brittany, a professional golfer in her own right, as her caddy.

The LPGA Tour features two events in Canada in 2017 with

the Manulife LPGA Classic in Cambridge, Ont., set for June 5-11 and the Canadian Pacific Women's Open scheduled for Aug. 21-27 in Ottawa.

The CP Women's Open is already circled on Henderson's calendar as the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club is playing host. The course gave Henderson an honorary membership this year.

"I'm already looking forward to that week of the season and hopefully I peak that week," said Henderson. "Being a member of the Ottawa Hunt Club and having it so close to where I grew up, celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary in the capital, it's going to be really amazing."

After getting so close to the top in her first full LPGA season, Henderson admitted she's more motivated than ever to get to No. 1. "I think that's ultimately the end goal for any person playing on the LPGA Tour," she said.

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